



# ETHNOBOTANY OF THE PLANTS MENTIONED IN TRIPITAKA FOUND AMONG TAI-KHAMTIS OF LAKHIMPUR DISTRICT, ASSAM, INDIA

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## ABSTRACT

The Tai-Khamtis of Lakhimpur District, Assam are the followers of Theravada Buddhism. There is mention of several plants in their sacred book- Tripitaka. However, there is little work on ethnobotany of the religious plants mentioned in Tripitaka which are found among Tai Khamtis. The present work is a study of uses of religious plants and plants mentioned in Tripitaka found in the area of study.

**KEYWORDS:** Tai-Khamti, Ethnobotany, Plants in Tripitaka, Lakhimpur District, Buddhism

## INTRODUCTION

Tripitaka is the sacred book of Buddhism. In so many teachings and various passages of Tripitaka the material importance of the natural environment and plant is mentioned. In Vinaya Pitaka, (Mahavagga); it is mentioned the natural environment contains plants having medicinal properties also. In Tripitaka, medicinal plants are found to be mentioned in the fifth volume of Vinaya Pitaka, at the chapter "The Mahavagga Khandhaka". It teaches the monks to use medicine. They are given names in Pali or Magadhi.. In Tripitaka, medicinal plants were classified according to the plant parts that were utilised:

1. Mula (rhizomes or bulb),
2. Panna (leaves),
3. Phala (seeds and seedless fruits)
4. Jatu (balsam, latex, gum resins, or resin) and
5. Kasava (extracted solution from any parts of plants)

Thai-Tripitaka contains 45 treaties. These can be divided into 3 major parts on the basis of the subjects; Vinaya Pitaka, Sutta Pitaka, and Abhidhamma Pitaka.

Life-history of Lord Buddha is closely connected with particular trees. Buddhists from the Tai-Khamti group in the Lakhimpur District most frequently utilise flowers in social and religious ceremonies.

Buddhist religion has lots of ethnobotanical uses of plants in their religious purposes. Tai-khamtis mostly use flowers in religious and social customs.

### Aims and Objective:

According to 2011 census report of India, Tai-Khamti people have population of 1000 near about. These people had migrated to India near 1974. The Tai Khamtis were originally migrated in batches in different historical times from Bor-Khamti or Khamti-mung or Khamti-long or Munche situated near Irawady.

Several Tai community groups are found in Assam, India. These groups are- Tai-aiton, Tai-Ahom, Tai-Khamyang, Tai-Turung, Tai- Phake and Tai-Khamti. They all have historical impacts on Assam history including Battle of Saraighat (1671), Moamarias rebel (1769-1805), Tai-Khamti rebellion of 1839 etc. historical battles and formation of several historical monuments and Buddhist Monastery also resemble their historical impacts.

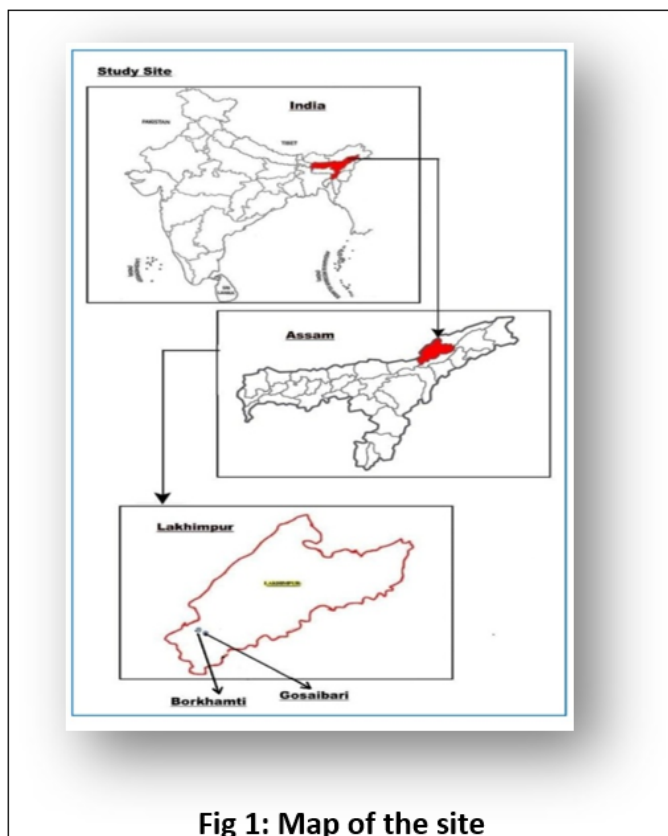
As mentioned earlier the Vinayapitaka of Tripitaka-The sacred book of Buddhism holds data on various medicinal practices, we aimed at studying various plants that has ethnobotanical importance among the Tai-Khamti tribe and are found to be mentioned in the Tripitaka.

As there is less population in number so the Tai-Khamti language speakers are also counted to be less in number. We aimed at collecting the vernacular names of plant specimens that were collected during the study.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Study area:

On the north bank of the Brahmaputra River, in the northeast of Assam, is where you'll come across Lakhimpur District. The district is roughly situated within longitudes 93°42' and 94°20' east and latitudes 26°48' and 27°53' north. The Arunachal Pradesh districts of Siang and Papumpare border it on the north, and the Dhemaji District and the Subansiri River border it on the east. Majuli District is bordered on the south by the Brahmaputra River and on the west by the Gahpur Subdivision of Biswanath District. Most of the forests are tropical rain forests.



**Fig 1: Map of the site**

With a view to record the religious plants used among the Tai-Khamtis, frequent field visits were made to the villages of Tai-Khamtis in Lakhimpur District, Assam. Each time locals were interviewed on a field visit, a detailed examination of the names and usage of the plants was conducted. It was attempted to visit the same location at several seasons, however it was scarcely feasible. So the visit was made in suitable interval. As the Tai-Khamti is a part of another few Tai groups migrated to Assam, so to understand distinct differentiations of the community with other Tai groups several places of Assam were also visited where Tai-Khamyang, Tai-Turung community were found.

A field book was used to record plant observations and information about their usage. All of the plants utilized by the Tai Khamtis have been collected and the voucher specimens were maintained using the standard herbarium process (Jain & Rao 1978).

A straightforward questionnaire was created to gather data. The details of the orchid-based medications and their therapeutic benefits were noted. Standard practises were followed for the survey, sampling, collecting, and recording. All of the materials that were obtained had voucher specimens, and the species that were collected were identified using published literature on flora of the area.

The accompanying voucher samples were given to the herbarium in the Botany department. at North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous), Lakhimpur, Assam, for appropriate identification. The specific specimen that served as the foundation for the conversation and information from the informant was taken to the herbarium and identified in order

to prevent the chance of identification error brought about by species mixing.

The degree to which the veracity of the informants' statements may be trusted is an important question. The same plant specimens were discussed with numerous informants on other days and in various locations or villages as part of additional research in this area. It was really helpful since there was always opportunity for new information or even comments that were in conflict because the groups' membership changed. As a result, observations and claims were verified.

In the current investigation, the herbaria of North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous) herbarium collection was used to conduct a specimen-to-specimen search. and by using the website of BSI for identification. Data-wise, it was found that Kanjilal and his associates on "Flora of Assam" (1934-40) contained all of the ethnobotanical data they had gathered. "Flora of Assam" (1934-40) served as the source for the plant information.

#### **Observations:**

By doing the study in the area 25 species mentioned in the Tripitaka were identified to be in use among the Tai-Khamtis of Lakhimpur District; Assam

*Aegle marmelos* (L)Corr

Family: Rutaceae

**As: Bel gos      Kh: Mak-puk-na**

A much branched tree; leaves trifoliate, alternate and pale green, the two lateral leaflets are oblong to lanceolate and nearly sessile; Inflorcence panicle with about 10 flowers; flowers are axillary, stalked, bisexual, and greenish-white with a fragrant smell. The fruit has a woody exterior.

**Distribution:** Distributed across India. Also found in the research sector as well in both wild and cultivated state

#### **Ethnobotany:**

**Root:** Chewed in vomiting.

**Stem:** Infusion of stem bark from *Gmelina arborea*, *Solanum indicum*, and *Ricinus communis* roots is used as a bath remedy for body aches..

**Leaves:** Juice (approximately 10 ml) is administered twice daily for a week to treat constipation..

**Flower:** Juice poured into swollen eyes

**Ripe fruit:** If constipated, pulp is consumed.

**Seeds:** On boils and abscesses, paste is administered.

*Allium Sativum* L.

Family: Liliaceae

**As: Nohoru**

**Kh: Puru-ching**

Erect bulbous herb with linear leaf blades and a pseudo-stem at the base; pinkish, umbel-shaped blooms; little loculicidal capsules for the fruit

**Distribution:** Widely distributed across India; cultivated as winter crop

#### Ethnobotany:

##### Bulb and leaves:

1. Bulb and leaves are frequently used as spices. It is allegedly diaphoretic, carminative, and purifying to the blood.
2. Ringworm is treated with paste of bulb, which is then rinsed with water (twice daily till cure) after being covered with a thin towel for about 30 minutes.
3. To make mouthwash, lukewarm water is diluted 1:5 with the juice produced by smashing and squeezing the bulb. A small amount of table salt is then added. In order to treat stomach discomfort, a paste containing a little sugar and salt is administered (approximately 15gm twice day).
4. Sometimes cloves one sliced and taken meal (About 5 cloves at a time till cure)
5. Bulbs fried with mustard oil used in common cold
6. Commonly cultivated for economic purpose as bulbs and leaves are common condiments
7. Leaves are eaten after cooked with meat as condiment.

*Areca catechu* L.

Family: Arecaceae

**As: Tamul**

**Kh: Mak-mu**

A tall, thin palm with a base that is broad, thick, and leathery, with a crown of leaves. Its fruits are ovoid, bright orange yellow when ripe, with a fibrous husk, and its blooms are lemon yellow and grouped in two tiers.

**Distribution:** Infrequently grown in the research area include the coastal states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and North-Eastern India.

#### Ethnobotany:

##### Nuts:

- A. Unripe and ripe fruit's raw nuts are regularly consumed. as a fletcher when combined with other ingredients. It is chewed for its flavour and for pleasure in addition to its sedative and narcotic effects.
- B. Nuts are also given various treatments. But unlike the rest of India, the Khamtis and other people in northeastern India use different remedies. For approximately a month in the first method, ripe nuts are submerged in water in an earthen pitcher; for about three months In the next method, mature nuts are inserted into a hole that has been lined with a plant's sheaths (in this case, the betel palm), which is then covered with dirt. The fermented nuts lost their bitter raw-nut essence and took on a more agreeable flavour. Through these procedures, it made sure that nuts would be available throughout the time when plants are in their blossoming stage.

##### Stem:

Used for tool handles and temporary structural posts. The houses of nearly all the groups in northeastern India, including

the Khamtis, serve a piece of nut with betel pepper leaves as a welcoming gesture to guests.

*Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lamk. Family: Moraceae

**As: Kothal**

**Kh: Mak-lang**

Oblong, whole leaves; leafy stipules; inflorescence is axillary and on the base, with oblong heads; cylindrical, with numerous short, achinate processes; tree with yellowish wood.

**Distribution:** Cultivated across the study area, growing throughout the rest of the country and wild in the Western Ghats.

#### Ethnobotany:

##### Fruits:

- A. Immature fruits are used for the preparation of curries
- B. Ripen fruits are edible.
- C. Mature fruit seeds are consumed after being cooked or roasted.

##### Wood:

The cloth or yarn is cooked in water with wood, which gives the mixture a yellow tint. The dye is specifically used to colour writing surfaces made from *Aquillaria malaccenses* as well as Buddhist monks' robes, known as "Chankan" or "Chaoman."

**Plants:** Plants planted in temple garden, home garden.

*Azadirachta indica* A. Juss.

Family: Meliaceae

**As: Moha-neem Kh: Tam-maa**

Alternating pinnate leaves on a tree, with leaflets that are obliquely oblong to ovatelanceolate, lax, axillary panicles with white flowers and mature fruits that are ovoid and greenish-yellow in hue.

**Distribution:** It grows naturally at arid forests of South-India and throughout India, often planted in the study region.

#### Ethnobotany:

##### Root:

1. Extract of root is used to treat diarrhoea (approximately 15ml thrice daily untill recovered).
2. Vermicide is made from juice (approximately 10ml daily on an empty stomach for three days).

##### Leaves:

1. In cases of skin conditions and syphilis ulcer, leaves infusion is used as a bath.
2. It is also claimed that leaf juice purifies the blood.
3. Occasionally, leaves cooked in mustard oil are consumed as an anthelmintic

##### Flower and leaves:

Vegetables may be made from flowers and leaves. It is supposed to provide immunity against smallpox, chickenpox,

and the measles. To prevent skin disorders, it is advised to eat the leaves once a week as a vegetable.

*Bauhinia variegata* L.

Family: Caesalpiniaceae

**As: Kanchan**      **Kh: Mai-xiu**

Small tree with obtuse or rounded middle lobes, cordate leaves, white flowers, and flat, glabrous pods that are strongly veined when dried.

**Distribution:** Distributed across India. Also found in the research sector as well

#### **Ethnobotany:**

**Plant:** Plant grown as an ornamental plant in study area residences

**Flower:** Flowers used as offerings in religious rituals

*Benincasa hispida* (Thumb) Cogn. Family: Cucurbitaceae

**As: Kumura**      **Kh: Ma-bamenhong**

The hairy climber with two fid tendrils and ovate-reniform, cordate at the base, lobed, pubescent leaves produces ellipsoid

**Distribution:** Grown in the tike study area and all throughout India.

#### **Ethnobotany:**

**Root:** To treat gonorrhoea, a root infusion is used (approximately 20gm twice day for a month).

**Shoots, fruits & leaves:** Fruits, delicate leaves and sensitive shoots are utilized as vegetables.

**Plant:** Often cultivated as summer crop

*Butea monosperma* (Lamk.) Taub. Family: Fabaceae

**As:Polash gos**      **Kh:mo-pao-hom**

Trifoliate tree with deciduous leaves; flowers in racemes that are flame-colored, with coriaceous leaflets that are broadly ovate ; oblong, flat, leathery pods; oblong, dark-brown seeds

**Distribution:** Except in dry regions, found all across India

#### **Ethnobotany:**

**Plant:** Plant is grown as ornamental purpose.

**Flower:** Flower used as offerings is rituals.

**Roots:** Chronic dysentary patients are administered with *Mangifera indica* and *Erythrina stricta* root extracts (approximately 15m three times per day for a week).

*Capsicum annuum* L.

Family: Solanaceae

**As: Jolokia**      **Kh:Mak-phit**

Herb or understory shrub; axillary, single, or in clusters of two to three white flowers; highly varied berries; discoid, smooth,

or subscabrous seeds.

**Distribution:** Extensively grown both in the study region and throughout India.

#### **Ethnobotany:**

##### **Fruits:**

1. Ripe fruits are used as condiment.
2. Fruits are eaten in regular meals

**Plants:** Plants are cultivated in house garden as well as in river bank and fields for economic purpose.

*Cassia fistula* L.

Family: Caesalpiniaceae

**As: Sonaru**

**Kh:Mai-khum-ngow**

A deciduous tree containing light-gray bark, pinnate leaves with up to 8 pairs of leaflets, and yellow flowers on drooping racemes; black, cylindrical pods with sticky, black pulp

**Distribution:** Distributed all across India; frequently observed in home gardens in the study area.

#### **Ethnobotany:**

**Plants:** Plants grow in flowergardens and temple yards as ornamental plant.

**Flower:** Flower used as offerings in religious rituals.

*Cinnamomum tamala*

Family: Lauraceae

**As: Tezpat**

**Kh:Mao-hom**

Medium-sized tree with elliptic-oblong leaves, panicles of flowers, and drupes that become black when ripe. It has a rough surface with a reddish-brown interior that darkens with exposure.

**Distribution:** Distributed across the tropical and subtropical Himalaya up to 2,500 metres, as well as in the lower hills of northern India and Bengal; it grows both wild and in cultivation throughout the study region.

#### **Ethnobotany:**

##### **Leaves and bark:**

1. Leaves and bark are poured in tea prepared with zinger and other condiments for better taste.
2. Leaves and bark are sold in market. Leaves are also used in cooking for flavoring curries

*Cucumis sativus* Linn.

Family: Cucurbitaceae

**As: Tioh**

Small, annual, trailing herbaceous plant with lobed, rough-surfaced leaves; monoecious yellow flowers; cylindrical to oblong, yellow-colored fruits when ripe

**Distribution:** Found across India; often cultivated

**Ethnobotany:****Fruits:**

1. Used as a vegetable or raw food
2. Fruit is sold in market

*Cucurbita maxima* Duch. ex lamk. Family: Cucurbitaceae

**As: Ronga-lao Kh:Ma-pakkham**

A climber ; reniform, sharply 5-lobed leaves; linear calyx lobed; variously sized, shaped, and colored fruits.

**Distribution:** Cultivated all across India and in the study area

**Ethnobotany:**

**Fruit, flower, tender leaf and shoot:** Fruit, flower, young leaves and shoot are utilized as vegetable.

**Seeds:** Fried seeds are edible

*Emblica officinalis* Gaertn. F. Family: Euphorbiaceae

**As: - Amlokhi Kh: - Mak-khom**

The tree ranges in size from tiny to medium. The tall, finely pubescent (as opposed to glabrous) branchlets are often deciduous. Simple, subsessile, pale green, and tightly spaced along branchlets, the leaves resemble pinnate leaves. Yellowish-green flowers are in bloom. The fruit has six vertical stripes or furrows and is roughly spherical, pale greenish-yellow, smooth, and firm in appearance.

**Distribution:** Distributed across India and also common in area of the study

**Ethnobotany:****Fruit:**

1. Fruit are eaten fresh and are sold in market.
2. Ripe fruits are stored for use in the future by making pickles out of them or by storing salted dried fruit in an airtight container.
3. Fruit juice is used to treat acidity (Abrupt 30ml thrice daily till cure).
4. To avoid dandruff, fruit juice is used as a hair-washing solution.

*Ficus altissima* Blume Family: Moraceae

**As:Dimoru Kh:Tun-pak**

Tree with aerial roots, sessile axillary pairs of receptacles, and ovate-elliptic coriaceous leaves. Bark is grey, tough, and interior is pale with brown spots.

**Distribution:** Widespread in the research region and found across Northeastern India.

**Ethnobotany:**

**Fruit:** Ripe fruit is eaten fresh

*Melastoma malabathricum* L. Family: Melastomaceae

**As: Phutuka Kh:Thao-phu-aning**

Shrub; terminal clusters of purple flowers; elliptic to oblong-lanceolate leaves with a 5-7 nerved underside that is rough on the upper surface. Fruit is juicy.

**Distribution:** Distributed in arid regions of India

**Ethnobotany:****Fruit:**

1. Ripe fruit is eaten by children
2. It is said that in ancient time the ripe fruits were used to prepare ink to write on scripts.

*Mangifera indica* L. Family: Anacardiaceae

**As: Aam Kh :- Mak-mou-mung**

An evergreen woody tree, leaves are lanceolate, white flowers in terminal panicles, and fruits are fleshy shaped drupes.

**Distribution:** It is both farmed and wild across the study region, including parts of sub-Himalayan India.

**Ethnobotany:****Leaves:**

1. About 25ml of younger leaf extract mixed with honey is used twice day until the cough is treated.
2. Chronic dysentery patients are given a paste of leaves and black pepper (approximately 10gm twice day for one night).

**Fruits:**

1. Unripe fruits are crushed with *Mentha spicata* and a little amount of salt is eaten in sunlight as refrigerant in summer. Also used for the preparation of pickles.
2. Ripened fruit is consumed and sold in markets.

*Momordica charantia* L. Family:Cucurbitaceae

**As:Tita-kerela Kh: Mak-khaikhum**

A climber, leaves are 5-7 lobed, solitary flowers and fusiform, tuberculate fruits with, compressed seeds.

**Distribution:** Distributed across India; found in both cultivated and wild state throughout the study area.

**Ethnobotany:**

**Shoots:** Young shoots are sold in shops and consumed as a vegetable.

**Fruit:** Tender fruits are sold in market and used as vegetables.

*Murraya koenigii* (L.) Spreng. Family: Rutaceae

**As: Narasingha Kh: Tun-phiphan**

Shrub with a pleasant perfume; imparipinnate leaves; leaflets oblique at the base; flowers in terminal corymbose cymes. Fruits are berries.

**Distribution:** Distributed across India; prevalent all over the research region.

#### Ethnobotany:

**Root and leaves:** In cases of dyspepsia and dysentery, extract of the root and leaves is administered (50ml twice or three times day for a week).

#### Leaves:

1. Leaves are used to flavor curries.
2. Grinded leaves are used as chutney.

*Musa paradisiaca* L. Family: Musaceae

**As:- Kach-kol Kh:- Kuin-chum**

Stoloniferous shrub with pseudo stem; oblong leaves, pendulous inflorescence; bracts pink; fruits green, seeds absent.

**Distribution:** Native to Eastern Himalayas up to 1,500 metres in Bihar; grown across India

#### Ethnobotany:

##### Fruits:

1. Unripe fruits are sliced and used for the preparation of chips. Unripe fruits are eaten after cooking.
2. Ripen fruits are kneaded, mixed with a glass of water and left overnight. The next day, the precipitate is filtered and extracted solution is utilized as a refrigerant.
3. To evacuate pus from abscesses, lime and ash of dried fruit bark are administered topically. After cooking, inflorescence are consumed.
4. Ripe fruits are eaten fresh.

*Nelumbo nucifera* Gaertn Family: Nelumbonaceae

**As: Podum Kh:Mok-mu**

Aquatic plant with milky juice, thick roots, peltate creeping leaves, juvenile leaves elevated above water, often scaled; mature carpel is ovoid

**Distribution:** Distributed all throughout India's drier regions; prevalent everywhere in the research area.

#### Ethnobotany:

**Plants:** Plants that are planted for adornment in ponds at a temple and a house

**Flowers:** Flowers are used as offerings in rituals and considered as best flower according to their religious belief

*Ocimum sanctum* L. Family: Lamiaceae

**As : Tulashi Kh:Im-khim-nap**

Aromatic hispid plant with rectangular, minutely glandular-

dotted leaves and scarlet or purple flowers in a verticillaster inflorescence.

**Distribution:** India-wide cultivation; grown in the backyards of the research area's participants

#### Ethnobotany:

**Leaves and shoots:** Children with stomach pain are given leaf and shoot extract (approximately 20ml twice day till cured).

**Leaves:** In order to treat a cough, a paste made of leaves and honey is administered (about 5g in 10ml of honey twice day).

*Oryza sativa* L. Family: Poaceae

**As:Dhan Kh:Khao**

Annual grass with tall culms, linear-lanceolate leaves, upright panicles, and ovate-oblong or ovoid spikelets that may or may not have awns; oblong, angular, and securely encased in the lemma and palea caryopsis.

**Distribution:** Cultivated across India

#### Ethnobotany:

**Rice grain:** Rice grain is used as staple food among people. Rice grain are also used to prepare various food items during various festivals Rice beer is prepared from rice grains..

**Rice water:** Washing clothes and hair both employ rice water.

**Straw:** Used as cattle food.

*Piper betle* L. Family: Piperaceae

**As:Paan Kh:Thao-maopu**

Broad, ovate, glabrous, and shining leaves with adventitious roots that ascend

**Distribution:** Commonly farmed in the study region; grown practically everywhere else in India, with the exception of the arid northwest.

#### Ethnobotany:

**Leaves:** Leaves are used as masticator with Arecanut and other substances.

Leaves are also sold in markets.

*Saccharum officinarum* L. Family: Poaceae

**As: Kuhiar Kh:Tun- ooi**

Shrubby grass with inflexible, lanceolate, acuminate leaves that spread or drop at the tip, and pyramidal panicles that are enormous, thick.

**Distribution:** Cultivated across India

#### Ethnobotany:

##### Stem:

1. Stem juice is drunk as refrigerant in summer.
2. Stem is chewed and sucked

*Sesamum indicum* L.

Family: Pedaliaceae

**As: Till**

**Kh: Mak-nam**

A perennial herb with opposite or alternating leaves, axillary, single, pinkish-purple flowers, quadrangular fruits, and compressed, black seeds.

**Distribution:** Distributed across India; cultivated in the area of the study.

**Ethnobotany:**

**Seeds:** Seeds are used for the preparation of various types of cakes with powdered rice also sold in markets.

*Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels

Family: Myrtaceae

**As: - Kola-jamu Kh: - Tow**

Woody tree. Ovate-lanceolate, chartaceous leaves; flower is in axillary cymes. Fruits are globose, berries.

**Distribution:** Distributed across India; common throughout the study area

**Ethnobotany:**

**Fruit:** Ripe fruit are eaten fresh and are sold in market

*Tabernaemontana divaricata* R.Br. ex Roem. & Schult.

Family: Apocynaceae

**As: Togor**

**Kh: Mak-khaw-pi**

A magnificent evergreen shrub with huge, glossy, waxy, dark green leaves and spectacular clusters of waxy, white, multipetal blooms

**Distribution:** Northeastern India, from Northern India to Malaya, and frequently grows in the research area

**Ethnobotany:**

**Plant:** Plant grown as ornamental plant

**Flower:** In religious and social occasions, flowers are utilised as offerings.

*Terminalia chebula* Retz.

Family: Combretaceae

**As: - Silikha**

**Kh: - Pa-na**

A woody tree, leaves are elliptic-oblong; terminal spikes of yellowish-white flowers; drupes that are ovoid or ellipsoid in shaped.

**Distribution:** Distributed across the study region

**Ethnobotany:**

**Fruit:** Fruits are eaten and sold in markets. Fruits are boiled in salted water and sun-dried to eat the fruits in future as masticatory.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

29 species belonging to 21 families have been found in the area.

Specimen	Family	Vernacular name	Plant part used	Purpose of use
<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Corr	Rutaceae	As: Belgos Kh: Mak-puk-na	Root, Stem, Leaves, Flower, Ripe fruit, Seeds	Medicinal food
<i>Allium sativum</i> L.	Liliaceae	As: Nohoru Kh: Puru-ching	Bulb, Leaves	Medicinal
<i>Areca catechu</i> L.	Arecaceae	As: Tamul Kh: Mak-mu	Nuts, Stem	Food Medicinal Miscellaneous
<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> Lamk.	Moraceae	As: Kothal Kh: Mak-lang	Fruits, Wood, Plants	Food
<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss.	Meliaceae	As: Moha-neem Kh: Tam-maa	Root, Leaves, Flower	Food Medicinal
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i> L.	Caesalpinaceae	As: Kanchan Kh: Mai-xiu	Plant Flower	Ornamental Religious
<i>Butea monosperma</i> (Lamk.) Taub.	Fabaceae	As: Polashgos Kh: mo-pao-hom	Plant Flower	Ornamental Religious
<i>Benincasa hispida</i> (Thumb) Cogn.	Cucurbitaceae	As: Kumura Kh: Ma-bamenhong	Root, Shoots, fruits & leaves	Food Medicinal
<i>Capsicum annuum</i> L.	Solanaceae	As: Jolokia Kh: Mak-phit	Fruits, Plants	Food
<i>Cassia fistula</i> L.	Caesalpinaceae	As: Sonaru Kh: Mai-khum-ngow	Plants, Flower	Ornamental Religious

<i>Cinnamomum tamala</i> (Buch.-Ham.) T.Nees & C.H.Eberm.	Lauraceae	As: Tezpat Kh: Mao-hom	Leaves and bark	Food
<i>Cucumis sativus</i> Linn.	Cucurbitaceae	As: Tioh	Fruits	Food
<i>Cucurbita maxima</i> Duch. ex lamk.	Cucurbitaceae	As: Rong-lao Kh: Ma-pakkham	Fruit, Flower, Plant, Seed, Tender leaf and shoot	Food
<i>Emblica officinalis</i> Gaertn. F.	Euphorbiaceae	As: - Amlokhi Kh: - Mak-khom	Fruit	Food Medicinal
<i>Ficus altissima</i> Blume	Moraceae	As: Dimoru Kh: Tun-pak	Fruit	Food
<i>Melastoma malabathricum</i> L.	Melastomaceae	As: Phutuka Kh: Thao-phuaning	Fruit	Food Miscellaneous
<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.	Anacardiaceae	As: Aam Kh: - Mak-mou-mung	Leaves Fruits	Food Medicinal
<i>Momordica charantia</i> L.	Cucurbitaceae	As: Tita-kerela Kh: Mak-khaikhum	Shoots Fruits	Food
<i>Murraya koenigii</i> (L.) Spreng.	Rutaceae	As: Narasingha Kh: - Tun-phiphan	Root and leaves	Food Medicinal
<i>Musa paradisiaca</i> L.	Musaceae	As: Kachkol Kh: Kuinchum	Fruit	Food Medicinal

<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> Gaertn	Nelumbonaceae	As: Podum Kh: Mok-mu	Flowers	Religious Ornamental
<i>Ocimum sanctum</i> L.	Lamiaceae	As: Tulashi Kh: Im-khim-nap	Leaves and shoots	Medicinal
<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.	Poaceae	As: Dhan Kh: Khao	Rice grain, Rice water, Straw	Food Miscellaneous
<i>Piper betle</i> L.	Piperaceae	As: Paan Kh: Thao-maopu	Leaves	Food
<i>Saccharum officinarum</i> L.	Poaceae	As: Kuhiar Kh: Tun-ooi	Stem	Food
<i>Sesamum indicum</i> L.	Pedaliaceae	As: Till Kh: Mak-nam	Seed	Food
<i>Syzygium cumini</i> (L.) Skeels	Myrtaceae	As: Kola-jamu Kh: Tow	Fruit	Food
<i>Tabernaemontana divaricata</i> R.Br. ex Roem. & Schult.	Apocynaceae	As: - Togor Kh: Mak-khaw-pi	Plant, Flower	Ornamental Religious
<i>Terminalia chebula</i> Retz.	Combretaceae	As: Silikha Kh: Panna	Fruit	Food

Table 1 : List of plants with family

**Plants used in medicinal aspect:**

10 species belonging to 9 families are used in medicinal aspect. The prescriptions can be divided into the following categories according to the curative qualities they are linked to:

1. Constipation
2. Ring worm
3. Stomach discomfort
4. Diarrhea
5. Skin diseases
6. Syphilitic ulcer

7. Acidity
8. Chronic dysentery

Families	Number of species
Rutaceae	2
Liliaceae	1
Areaceae	1
Meliaceae	1
Cucurbitaceae	1
Euphorbiaceae	1
Anacardiaceae	1
Musaceae	1
Lamiaceae	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

**Table 2: Number of plant species used towards medicinal aspects against each family**

#### Plants used as food:

26 species belonging to 19 families have been reported to be used as food. Of these, 14 species are also used in other purposes

Family	No. of Species
Rutaceae	2
Areaceae	1
Moraceae	2
Meliaceae	1
Cucurbitaceae	3
Solanaceae	1
Lauraceae	1
Cucurbitaceae	3
Euphorbiaceae	1
Moraceae	2
Melastomaceae	1
Anacardiaceae	1
Musaceae	1
Poaceae	2
Piperaceae	1
Pedaliaceae	1
Myrtaceae	1
Combretaceae	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

**Table 3: Number of plant species used as food against each family**

#### Plants used in religious and ornamental purpose:

5 species belonging to 4 families have been reported to be used in religious purpose.

Family	No. of Species
Caesalpiniaceae	2
Fabaceae	1
Nelumbonaceae	1
Apocynaceae	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>

**Table 4: Number of plant species used in religious and ornamental purpose against each family**



*Azadirachta indica* A. Juss.



*Bauhinia variegata* L.



*Butea monosperma* (Lamk.) Taub.



*Cassia fistula* L.



*Mangifera indica* L.



*Piper betle* L.

**Fig 2 : Snapshots of some herbaria****CONCLUSION**

The scientific name followed by family, notable synonym(s), local name(s), brief botanical description, distribution in India, and ethnobotany are all included in the detailed information on 29 plant species that were seen during field research.

Most of the species mentioned in Tripitaka are seen to be used in as food among the tribe.

**List of abbreviations:**

1. Kh- Khamti
2. As- Assamese
3. L.- Linnaeus

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